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|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b), 1.97(c), or 1.97(d)</b> |   |                                     | <b>Attny. Docket No.</b><br>2003B033      |
| <b>In Re Application of: Thomas W. Towles</b>  |   |                                     |   |
| <b>U.S. Serial No.</b><br>Awaited  | <b>Filing Date</b><br>February 23, 2004 | <b>Examiner</b><br>Not Yet Assigned | <b>Group Art Unit</b><br>Not Yet Assigned |

Address to:  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**37 CFR § 1.97(b)**

- ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

**37 CFR § 1.97(c)**

- ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d); after three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or after the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114, but before the mailing date of:

1. a Final Action under § 1.113,
2. a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, or
3. an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application,

and is accompanied by either:

- ☐ the fee as set forth in § 1.17(p), or
- ☐ the following statement under § 1.97(e)(1): each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

**37 CFR § 1.97(d)**

- ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after a Final Action under § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Submitted herewith is the fee as set forth in § 1.17(p) and the following statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1): each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Applicant hereby request consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, USPTO form 1449, submitted herewith.

☒ Legible copies of the references are enclosed.

☐ This application is a:  
☐ Continuation / Divisional,  
☐ Continuation-in-Part,

of U.S.S.N. \_\_\_\_\_. Copies of the cited references are ☐ enclosed; ☐ not enclosed. References are available in the parent application(s) if not enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 05-1712. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed.

February 23, 2004

Date



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|---|----|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b><br><br><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>   |    |                          |               |                    | ATTY. DOCKET NO.        |          | SERIAL NO.                    |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    | <b>2003B033</b>         |          | <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>       |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    | APPLICANT               |          |                               |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    | <b>Thomas W. Towles</b> |          |                               |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    | FILING DATE             |          | GROUP                         |    |
| <b>February 23, 2004</b>  |    | <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>  |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER       | DATE          | NAME               | CLASS                   | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |    |
|   | AB | 4,981,831                | 01/01/91      | Knudsen et al.     | 502                     | 236      |                               |    |
|   | AC | 5,093,300                | 03/03/92      | Vogels et al.      | 502                     | 256      |                               |    |
|   | AA | 5,895,770                | 04/20/99      | Pullukat et al.    | 502                     | 103      |                               |    |
|   | AD | 6,150,572                | 11/21/00      | Rinaldi et al.     | 570                     | 166      |                               |    |
|   | AE | 6,201,077                | 03/13/01      | Bergmeister et al. | 526                     | 104      |                               |    |
|   | AF | 6,204,346                | 03/20/01      | Bergmeister et al. | 526                     | 104      |                               |    |
|   | AG | 6,214,947                | 4/10/01       | Debras et al.      | 526                     | 96       |                               |    |
|   | AH | 6,359,085                | 03/19/02      | Lhost et al.       | 526                     | 106      |                               |    |
|   | AI | US<br>2001/0004663<br>A1 | 06/21/01      | Bergmeister et al. | 526                     | 348.5    |                               |    |
|   | AJ | US<br>2001/0007894<br>A1 | 07/12/01      | Bergmeister et al. | 526                     | 129      |                               |    |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
|   |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER       | PUBL.<br>DATE | COUNTRY            | CLASS                   | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION                   |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          | YES                           | NO |
|   | AK | EP0882740A1              | 09/12/98      | Europe             | C08F                    | 4/24     |                               |    |
|   | AL | EP0882743A1              | 12/09/98      | Europe             | C08F                    | 4/24     |                               |    |
|   | AM | EP1038886A1              | 09/27/02      | Europe             | C08F                    | 10/02    |                               |    |
| <b>OTHER DISCLOSURES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages of Publication, Etc.)</b>  |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
| EXAMINER  |    |                          |               |                    | DATE CONSIDERED         |          |                               |    |
|   |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |
| <b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line though citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next comment to applicant |    |                          |               |                    |                         |          |                               |    |